Lastly, slaughter houses should be removed outside municipal limits. The existence of private slaughter houses had very often led to public disturbances because slaughter of cows was considered a sacrilege by a large section of the people.

DEWAN'S REPLY :—Mr. Daniel, I am glad to be able to tell you that the need for the amending of the Municipal Regulation has been felt by the Government themselves. And they have instructed the Law Member to draft an amendment bill. I shall not attempt to follow the details of the discussion of the various provisions of the existing Municipal Regulation or their defects, but I am sure that the discussion contained in your representation will be of great help to the Law Member in drafting the Bill.

59. Reform of the Trivandrum Municipal Council.

MR. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) said that the provisions of the Municipal Regulation, V of 1095, were too inadequate for the Municipal Councils to carry on the duties entrusted to them. The Regulation should therefore be amended suitably at an early date.

Speaking about the Trivandrum Municipality in particular, the member said that the provisions of Regulation were insufficient in several respects. Many localities were too congested for healthy habitation. Many acts had to be done to minister to the growing needs of the town but there was no sanction therefor in the existing Regulation. There was no provision for the effective control of public hotels and tea-shops; the sale of adulterated and impure foodstuffs could not be prevented; the nuisance of smoking was another evil which could not be controlled. The Council had no large powers over its funds which could be spent only with the sanction of Government. There was no provision for the realisation of dues from foreign cinema and dramatic companies who played without license. Their performances could not be prohibited, although health experts condemned them. The Council had to pay compensation for the lands acquired for its use but was not impleaded in land acquisition cases. The above were only some of the defects which stood in the way of the Council doing acts of public good.

The member next spoke about the need for a non-official President for the Trivandrum Municipal Council. The subject had been urged on the attention of the Government on more occasions than one. The spirit underlying local-self government required an elected president. Only he can influence the citizens to co-operate with him in the common endeavour of doing social good. Official Presidents could not command public support. They had also no enthusiasm for working new schemes of public utility but were content to see that the existing machinery was run. They occupied a position of vantage in that they had the support of the Government always and were not controlled by the Council. The result was the lack of continued policy and vigorous schemes for improved municipal administration. Under the existing circumstances, the assistance of a Council was hardly necessary. An official

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President was also an insult to the intelligence of the local citizens, because in effect it was presumed that the latter were unable to carry on municipal administration. The Government had felt the need for a non-official President so long ago as 1921 and agreed to give one on the understanding that the council would employ an executive officer lent by the Government under the President and removable from office only by Government. On another occasion, the Council was told that the right of electing a non-official President would be granted on condition that the Council agreed to appoint as its chief Executive Officer an officer of the status of a Dewan Peishkar with control over the Municipal executive and powers similar to those of the Commissioner of the Madras Corporation. The Council accepted the latter proposal but the Government left the matter as it was. The member requested that the matter should be taken up for consideration again as a change was imperatively necessary.

His next request was for the removal of the disqualification placed on women to become members of Municipal Council, by Section 11 of the Regulation. This was a blot on the statute book when women were granted equal rights and privileges with men everywhere else.

Lastly he referred to the reply given by the Dewan to the representative of the Trivandrum Municipal Council at the last session of the Assembly, about the remedying of the defects of the Municipal Regulation and requested that early action might be taken in the matter.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nataraja Pillai, you have suggested an amended Regulation. As I told the member who made the representation before you, the amendment has been taken in hand, and if, by such amendment, the Trivandrum Municipality will get a non-official President, Government will not stand in its way.

As regards the various suggestions you made, your representation will be sent to the Law Member and he will consider them in drafting the amendments.

60. Desirability of having an elected non-official President for the Attingal Municipal Council.

Mr. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR, (*Municipal Council, Attingal*) spoke about the need for having an elected non-official President for the Attingal Municipal Council under the Municipal Regulation. The Council was entitled to have such a President and in fact the first three Presidents after the promulgation of the Regulation were elected non-officials. But when the third President resigned his post, the Government appointed an official member of the Council, the Head Master of the local English High School as its President, in express violation of the provisions of the Regulation. No doubt, under the Regulation, the Government had power to nominate members to represent minorities. A few places were also created to be filled *ex-officio*. The Attingal Council had an elected majority; but by the nomination of an Official President the Government had deprived the Council of its legitimate right. Viewed as a contract, the Attingal

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